Claims

1. A method of making an outer lever of a finger lever that can be switched to different lifts for at least one gas exchange valve, said outer lever comprising two substantially parallel arms whose ends are connected by crossbars so that a rectangular or O-like aperture for an inner lever that is capable of pivoting relative to the outer lever is formed, a running contact surface for a high-lift cam being arranged on an upper side of each arm, said method comprising the following work steps to which further intermediate steps may be added:

   a) deep drawing a cup-shaped base body out of a metal sheet or a sheet metal strip such that, on the one hand, a drawing die is applied to the metal sheet or the sheet metal strip from one side of the upper sides of the arms and the crossbars to be formed and produces a substantial height of the arms and the crossbars in the cup-shaped base body and, on the other hand, a continuous annular collar comprising the upper sides extends outwards approximately at right angles to the base body,

   b) simultaneous or subsequent shaping, typically stamping of an approximately central cavity extending in a length direction of the lever in an underside of one of the crossbars,

   c) punching-out a bottom of the cup-shaped base body, and

   d) cutting-off the continuous annular collar on the upper sides except for two elongate opposing projecting portions on the arms for forming the running contact surfaces.

2. A method of claim 1, wherein the annular collar is cut off in step d) such that, in addition to the running contact surfaces on the arms, a finger-like extension remains on the crossbar comprising the cavity, which extension extends longitudinally away from the crossbar and is subsequently bent over so as to project from the upper side of the crossbar.

3. A method of claim 1, wherein the annular collar is cut off in step d) such that outer surfaces of the arms and the crossbars merge at least approximately directly into the upper sides.

4. A method of claim 1, wherein the cavity of step b) is partially cylindrical in shape.

5. A method of claim 1, wherein the running contact surfaces made in step d) have a beam-like geometry and, as viewed in longitudinal direction, a slightly cylindrical shape.

6. A method of claim 1, wherein the running contact surfaces made in step d) extend approximately at a center of the arms.

7. A method of claim 5, wherein the running contact surfaces made in step d) extend approximately at a center of the arms.

8. A method of claim 2, wherein step d) is followed by a further step e) in which two aligned receptions are one of punched or bored into the arms in a vicinity of the crossbar that is opposed to the crossbar comprising the finger-like extension, and said receptions serve to receive an axle for a pivoted mounting of the inner lever relative to the outer lever.

9. A method of claim 1, wherein the running contact surface on each arm of the outer lever is intended for a contact with a high-lift cam.